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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

2. The Pioneers and Education

- a. [redacted] at the Srednia Skola [middle school] in a village near the Polish border [redacted] the emphasis [redacted] was on developing and increasing membership for the Young [redacted]

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Communist Organization, "The Pioneers". The program in which the Pioneer movement was emphasized at this school depended on individual professors. In other words, the professors in each classroom were expected to recruit and recommend Czechoslovakian youth to the Pioneer organization.

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- b. [redacted] the approximate age acceptable to the Pioneer organization was about 18. Those [redacted] who were not members of the Pioneers were obliged to work for the government whenever the need existed -- members worked only on week ends and during the summer. Some [redacted] (non-Pioneers) were taken from the school during harvest, during the drives to pick Colorado bugs from potato plants etc.

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[redacted] there was an intense emphasis on teaching the students to fear the West, particularly the US. In both regions [redacted] taught that the US Air Force was engaged in bacteriological warfare and that it had been accused of dropping bacteria into the rural areas in order to poison Czechoslovakian crops. Around Prague, particularly in the rural areas /as well as in eastern Czechoslovakia/ youngsters were assigned the mission of collecting potato bugs which the propagandists attributed to US bacteriological warfare.

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3. Diseases and Infections

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- a. [redacted] a disease which was prevalent in various sectors of Czechoslovakia from 1948 to 1952. This disease was called "Oberna" by the Czechs. [redacted] The medical explanation in Czechoslovakia for this disease (which resulted in a crippling of the lower limbs) was that a virus had been introduced by Bulgarian and Korean children residing in Czechoslovakia. The government hospitals treated Oberna with penicillin and streptomycin. Affected persons were sent to mineral springs and spas for mud baths and heat treatments.
- b. Tuberculosis was very common throughout the entire country. The population, by and large, realized that this affliction was due to undernourishment. [redacted] constant complaining about the ration system which did not provide sufficient staple foods such as butter, eggs, milk or meat.
- c. Immunization in the schools was confined to inoculations and vaccinations for smallpox and typhoid fever.

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d. With reference to inoculation for typhoid fever, such inoculation took place after an epidemic broke out.

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e. [] in 1952 the secondary schools in Prague were using some form of vaccine to inoculate for tuberculosis.

4. Air Raid Drills

a. All secondary schools have air raid drills. In eastern Czechoslovakia, as well as in Prague, students were drilled in order to determine how rapidly they could evacuate the school buildings and disperse in the school enclosures. [] in 1953 the students of Prague followed this procedure.

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[] the air raid alarm consisted of a large school bell which was used to alert the students. The alarm was never sounded at undetermined periods, but followed a prearranged briefing during which the students were informed one-half hour prior to the alarm. []

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[] There were none in eastern Czechoslovakia.

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5. Radios and Broadcasts

a. Radio sets were available to most families but [] unable to listen to anything but local programs or Moscow. It was forbidden to listen to foreign broadcasts. [] At moments [] hear portions of Western programs but due to constant interference and jamming, [] unable to understand any substantial portion that was broadcasted.

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b. Everyone had to pay for the use of his radio. Payment was made on a monthly basis on all registered sets. All radios had to be registered. There were several ways to register a radio, but most families did so through the postman who also presented owners of radios with the monthly statement which he personally collected. In order to procure a radio in Czechoslovakia, it was necessary to apply for a permit. If a person received a good recommendation from his employer, he could obtain his set through a government store at a reasonable rate -- whenever the officials made up their minds to sell it to him. Another means by which radios could be procured was to purchase them at the commission shops or in black markets, but the prices were exorbitant and far beyond the reach of the average citizen.

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c. In early 1953 another source of interference with radio programs was the electrical current. The supply of electricity, according to governmental explanation, was insufficient and as a consequence, for periods ranging from two to four hours, current was cut off. [] no determined period of the day or night was set aside by the administration for the conservation of electrical energy. In other words, electrical energy was cut off without warning -- at any time of the day or night. Whether or not the government intended it, this prevented attempting to listen to programs []

6. Labor

a. From the fall of 1952 until the middle of March 1953 there appeared to be considerable unemployment in Czechoslovakia, particularly in Prague. The newspapers were filled with ads by people desirous of employment. The laboring element most affected was that segment which did not have technical or scientific training. Technical and skilled laborers were always employed, but those who were either semi-skilled or non-skilled had a difficult time.

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- b. Although the employment situation in Prague and the larger cities was critical in 1953 this did not apply to the rural areas, particularly eastern Poland. In the Carvina sig region mining and agriculture were on such a large scale that the rural population was readily absorbed. The equality of sexes was very well demonstrated in employment fields for there was no discrimination between the employment of a male or female in any type of labor.

7. Security Controls

- a. Whenever the Czechoslovakian Government was concerned with security or whenever some crisis developed, forewarned in the following manner: prior to the development of a critical situation, the number of police on the streets increased perceptibly. Under normal conditions the major intersections only had one policeman, but whenever abnormal events transpired, the number increased to four or five.

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- b. in eastern Czechoslovakia not too far from the Polish border at the town of Teschen /Cieszyn, Poland/.

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 Border controls were very rigid. The only means of crossing the boundary at Teschen was over a cement bridge. This bridge served for all means of traffic -- auto, cart and pedestrians. On the Czechoslovakian side of the border, as late as 1951, there was only one guard or border patrolman. On the other side of the bridge (the Polish side) was visible only one border guard. A small booth was located on either side of the border. It served as a shelter for the guards. Although there was but one guard at the Polish booth, approximately 150 meters further into Poland were five or six more, all armed with tommy guns. They stopped Czechoslovakian or Polish traffic after it had been cleared by the sentry at the border. The boundary at Teschen is marked by wooden markers about five feet high.

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8. Dissatisfaction of Czechoslovakian Youth

- a. In estimating the degree of success obtained by the Communist government of Czechoslovakia in indoctrinating the youth, a number manifested by their attitudes the general receptivity of Czechoslovakian youth to Communism. Some of them were irritated because they felt that constant pressure was exerted upon them, that very rarely were they permitted freedom of choice. By virtue of this control and planned activity they were dissatisfied and grumbled. They failed to understand those cases in which their parents or adult friends had been removed from gainful occupations and professions and the eventual substitution of unqualified and unskilled personnel to their positions. (given the opportunity) many such Czechoslovakian students would disavow the system and enter the Western scene if it were at all possible.

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